

A LETTER

ADDRESSED TO THE

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN,

ON

THE SUBJECT OF HOMŒOPATHY,

BY

THE REV. THOMAS EVEREST,

RECTOR OF WICKWAR, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

"These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also."
Acts, xvii. 6.

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A LETTER
TO THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
OF GREAT BRITAIN.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN an individual unconnected in any way with your profession, and acknowledging himself totally ignorant of the science of medicine, thus publicly solicits your attention to some observations which he feels it his duty to offer, should those observations be frivolous, you, and not you only, but the public, will at once, and with great propriety, consign him back to that obscurity which best befits him, and which he never should have quitted. It should be no light cause which induces a stranger to intrude on you; if that intrusion be not justified by the nature of his remarks, the contempt he will experience will be commensurate with the impertinence of his interference. I am fully aware of the risk I run, and fully prepared to abide by the consequences, if I fail in convincing you of

the importance of the subject on which I propose to address you.

Every candid observer, whether of the past or present, will readily admit, that, of all the liberal professions, that of medicine is perhaps the most liberal. We may trace in its members of the present day the same zeal, the same eager spirit of investigation, the same indefatigable perseverance, the same devotion to—it may almost be called—self-immolation in the cause of truth, which have ever been characteristic of it since the labours of him who is usually termed its father; and often have they received for their noble exertions in the noblest of all sciences, the science of relieving suffering, the approbation and applause of admiring nations. It were tedious, it were more, it were invidious to select instances; the respect universally paid to medical men is sufficient testimony of the estimation in which they are held.

Among these fearless and disinterested enquirers into truth our own countrymen have ever shone conspicuous. Nor need our own times shrink from a comparison with any æra. Neither Harvey, nor Sydenham, nor Hunter, need blush for their successors.

The consequence of this noble devotion to the best interests of humanity has been, that the

British people have acquired a confidence in you which cannot easily be shaken. Our own interests are, it is true, at stake; but we have seen you ever forward to experiment on yourselves; ever the first to rush on danger; ever the last to yield to despair. We have watched all this, and, as the best requital of your heroic exertions, we have resigned ourselves with a generous confidence to your direction. We have seen with your eyes, and felt with your hands; we have rejected without enquiry what you have declared to be false; we have accepted and submitted to all that you recommended as useful or salutary; and we have carried this feeling so far that the necessity of confidence in our medical advisers has well nigh passed into a proverb. We have enlisted the imagination on your side, and considered ourselves safe when the physician, the synonym of healing, was by our bed-side. It is well. We believe you have our welfare at heart, and the surrender of ourselves into your hands is not too great a price to pay for so much devotion.

The post which you thus occupy is unquestionably an honorable one; none can be more so; but the more honorable it is, the greater will be our disappointment if we should ever discover that you have not kept that vigilant watch over our

interests which we have a right to expect, and which we have been led to believe was the case. If we should ever discover that you have delayed to investigate, or have summarily rejected without due circumspection any single fact connected with the art of healing, which might be valuable to us, our resentment will have no more bounds than had our confidence. But if, instead of one fact, we should discover that you have rejected, without enquiry, a WHOLE SYSTEM—the whole art of healing, surely, rapidly, and perfectly, almost all the diseases incident to our nature—what measure of indignation would be commensurate with such a violation of our confidence? Your children's children would seek in vain to recover that place in the nation's esteem to which we have elevated you.

Entertaining, no doubt, that you and every sensible person will agree in these conclusions, I will proceed to request your attention to the following statement—a statement which I will endeavour to keep as free from error as possible—in which, however, any error would be of less consequence, as liable or rather certain to meet instantaneous detection.

Some years ago a sect arose in that land so fruitful in startling paradoxes—Germany, one of whose leading tenets it is, that the present sys-

tem of medicine is a most erroneous system, and, of course, the present practice altogether vicious and injurious. It may not be amiss to give a brief sketch of the origin of that sect, and of some of its chief doctrines. In or about the year 1790, a young man of Meissen, in Saxony, (who had been educated for the profession of medicine, but had almost entirely given it up from disgust (as he avowed) at its (*a*) numberless contradictions, its empty theories, and the blind empiricism of its practice,) while engaged in translating the *Materia Medica* of Cullen, was struck with the account there given of the properties of Cinchona. It is probable that the theory by which it was attempted to explain the febrifuge powers of this substance, was not satisfactory to his enquiring mind; it is possible he had lost much of his respect for mere authorities; one fact alone is certain: he resolved to seek an explanation of those powers by instituting a series of experiments on himself. The problem which this young adventurer set himself to solve was a comprehensive one; for it embraced the whole scope of the art of healing; it was no less than this: (*b*) "to seek why a certain substance is a specific against a certain disorder, why it always removes certain symptoms, and to apply the principle so discovered to the whole of medicine."

It must be confessed that conduct like this does rather tend to conciliate one's prejudices against this daring Innovator. There is an appearance of fairness and love of truth combined with a grasp of mind by no means of ordinary occurrence. Error *does*, however, at times assume the garb of truth:—we would lay no stress upon this fact, except as connected with the previous career of this young man, which however it is beside my purpose to dwell on here; it is possible that in a few years' time mankind may need no information as to that young man.

Continuing on his own person the experiments before alluded to, he was not long in discovering that he had produced in himself a perfect intermittent fever, precisely similar to those against which cinchona was said to be a specific. It was a result as extraordinary as it was unexpected, a result which could not but arrest his attention. It is impossible, however, not to be struck with his extreme caution and perseverance. From the moment the suspicion crossed his mind that the property cinchona possessed of exciting intermittent fever in the healthy subject was precisely the property by means of which it cured intermittent fever in the sick, Homœopathy may be said to have been discovered. He had nothing to

do but to try the principle on a few other substances, and finding it, as he would have found it, existing in every specific, he might have announced it to the medical world in a quarto volume, dedicated to some eminent practitioner. He had many temptations to do so. He was friendless, he was poor, he was neglected. He had no patrons to publish abroad his admirable prescriptions, no titled patients to puff him into notoriety. There was no fashionable physician to call him in to a consultation, no elegant apothecary to recommend him. He might possibly have procured them all, but he had far other objects in view. He had that in view which nothing but experience could decide, nothing but the unrelaxing labour of many years develope. It were out of place here to relate the patience, the privations, the want, the solitude, the distress, the daily, hourly train of sufferings, to which this diligent observer bowed himself without a murmur, as one after another he tried upon himself the effect of all the drugs of the pharmacopœia, and many more. He knew that theory had been ever the great curse of truth, that even prejudice had not so much favoured the cause of darkness as that restless vanity of little minds, the love of building on every trifling novelty a whole superstructure of hypothesis. He

had a science to create. The effect of medicines on the sick had been often tried; until his time no one had experimented on the *healthy*. This task he set himself to perform; and rigidly adhering to the actual results he obtained, he took nothing for granted which he did not witness, nor bent to suit some favourite opinion any single fact which he did witness.

Cautiously and circumspectly, in doubt and in anxiety, did he first essay (c) on the sick the homœopathic principle which he had discovered. He was far too acute a reasoner not to conjecture that the dose of any medicine to be administered to a patient affected with symptoms similar to those which that medicine would excite in a healthy person, must be considerably diminished from those in ordinary use. Selecting, therefore, sugar of milk as a mere vehicle for dilution, and taking, as he ever did, experience for his only guide, he made at length this additional most extraordinary discovery, that constant and long-continued trituration augmented to a wonderful degree the inherent properties of all medicinal agents, and in many cases developed new energies in substances which had until then been regarded as completely inert. Reducing his medicines in quantity exactly as actual experiment on his patients taught him

they should be reduced, in order that each might have the greatest sanatory effect, he arrived at last, not led by theory but by observation, but by *practice* alone, at that mode of infinitesimal division which he and his disciples at present practise.

Human knowledge is said to be twofold—the observation of facts, and the study of the general laws which embrace and unite those facts. When twenty years (*d*) of silent research and incessant experiment had enabled him to classify, compare, and connect together all the results he had obtained, *and not until then*, he gave to the world that theory of the art of healing which it had cost him so much to mature. Adopting, as the one and only object of medicine the conditions of Celsus, *Sanare, tuto, citò et jucunde*, he excludes from his system all consideration of causes. The patient, he says, does not complain of causes, nor does he care in the least for learned dissertations on them—he complains of such and such unpleasant or painful sensations, and these it is the physician's duty to remove, if possible. Health is a certain normal state of the vital powers, and every unpleasant feeling is a dynamic aberration from that normal state. The totality of these innormal feelings, the *whole group of symptoms*, constitutes the disease, and it is this for which the

medical attendant has to seek a remedy (e). “Hear, write, question, and arrange.” Such are the directions which his school has given to gain a complete view of any malady. Listen patiently and without interrupting him, to every complaint the patient has to make. Write down *at the time* all that he says *in his own words*. When that is done, ask such questions as you may deem necessary, and write down the answers *at the time*. And lastly, note such observations as you may make during your visit. When this is done, arrange the symptoms so as to get a complete view of the whole in a group, and then seek that medicinal agent, which will produce those symptoms in the healthy, and, if administered in proper doses, you have the specific for that patient’s malady.

Such is a brief sketch of the theory and practice of Hahnemann. (f) Be it right, or be it wrong, it is at any rate utterly opposed to the present practice, and there cannot by any possibility be any alliance or truce between Homœopathy and allopathy. Hahnemann’s theory must either be admitted or rejected altogether:—It allows of no compromise—it will not amalgamate in any way whatever with the allopathic system.

The one school employs simple medicines alone, and allows of no combinations ; the other delights

in compound prescriptions. The rule of one is, *Similia similibus curantur*; of the other, *Contraria contrariis*. The one administers infinitesimal doses, with the intention of producing an infinitesimal aggravation; the other creates a violent temporary disease, by the administration of ounces and drachms. The one rejects external applications, the other orders liniments and lotions.

It is doubtless well known to you, gentlemen, that all over the Continent of Europe, and in America also, Homœopathy *is said* to be flourishing—it *is said* to have performed, and to be daily performing cures which are almost miraculous; *it is said* to have so far surpassed polypharmacy, as to have cured on many different occasions dangerous fevers in twenty-four hours, mental affections hitherto regarded as incurable, chronic complaints of very long standing, which had defied with equal imperturbability, the lancet and the blister, the pill and the draught, the change of air, and the change of diet, the physician and the druggist, the surgeon and the nurse—it is said amongst other wonders, to have supplied a complete and almost unfailing specific against the modern opprobrium medicorum, the asiatic cholera.

All these assertions, and the thousand marvelous, if not apocryphal narrations, which abroad

are attracting so much attention, are of course well known to you, gentlemen : to suppose you ignorant of them would be to do you injustice. My object in taking the liberty of addressing you, is to ask you why Homœopathy has hitherto made so little progress in England. You will probably reply that it is a foolish theory, a ridiculous system, a paradox, a dream, a delusion, to which no man of sense can give credit for an instant. It is certainly possible that it may be so : I have neither abilities to establish, nor inclination to assert the contrary ; but shall I be pardoned, if I presume to ask on what evidence you ground your rejection of it ? The British people who, as I have mentioned, repose, and very justly no doubt, the greatest confidence in your talents and your scientific attainments, have, it seems to me, a right to require at your hands a thorough examination of a system which promises, and *is said* to have performed so much. We have, you will be the first to admit that we have, a right to ask you for your experiments on the subject. It is possible that Homœopathy is nothing more than a vague and dreamy German theory unsupported by facts, but methinks it has now so many devoted adherents in other countries as to demand a trial in this. Twenty-four years ago, indeed, when the

druggists of Leipsic employed the “ultima ratio Pharmacopolarum,” and expelled from his native country, because he had not a friend to protect him, the Heresiarch whom they could not convince, then indeed it might not have deserved notice. But now the case is somewhat altered: you give it hard names, gentlemen; you call it charlatanism, and empiricism: we unlettered people care very little for the name. Be it empiricism—we ask, *is it true or false?* You tell us the minuteness of the doses is absurd: perhaps so,—but have they effected the cures they are said to have done? The medical practitioners of this country are a scientific body; they have of course made many series of experiments on the subject, in order to satisfy themselves of the truth or falsehood of it; it is the account of these experiments that we claim from you. For you will not fail to notice that when our ears are stunned, and our minds astonished with the marvellous accounts we hear of the cures effected in foreign countries, it gives us but little satisfaction to learn that the very able practitioners of our own country content themselves with calling Hahnemann a charletan. *Facts*, we are told, are the arguments, and the only arguments to which he appeals; we shall be very glad to see those facts either acknowledged or

contradicted; either admitted, or exposed as the misrepresentations of enthusiasm or ignorance. Unable of ourselves to determine, we take shelter under your knowledge, and we ask you, if the facts related by the old man of Köthen and his disciples are really all distorted and false, or not. He asserts for example that(*g*) gold, charcoal, silica, lycopodium, &c. though inert when unprepared, acquire a strong medicinal action when triturated with sugar of milk for some time, and taken even in small doses. Now we, gentlemen, have neither pestles nor mortars, nor scales, nor experience, but we beg of you to repeat the experiment, and let us know the result. We confess to you, moreover, that we do meet with cases(*h*) in foreign medical works, which strongly excite our curiosity; we look to you to inquire into the authenticity of those cases, and disabuse us if they are forged. We are aware also of the numerous supporters Homœopathy has found: we know of Peschier and Dufresne, at Geneva; Trinks and Wolf, at Dresden; Des Guidi, at Lyons; Mühlenbein, at Brunswick; Quin, Dunsford, and Belluomini, in London; Bigel, at Warsaw; and many others. We know how Rau, of Berlin, sharpened his pen to write down the new heresy, but eventually became a

convert to the very doctrine which he commenced by assailing.—If all these celebrated men are mad, or if they have all combined to cheat the world into the belief of a system which is totally opposed to their own interests, which has neither reason for its basis, nor evidence to support it; for our satisfaction, gentlemen, for your own credit, for the sake of humanity, relate to us the experiments which have determined you to reject it; reassure us, lest our confidence in you should waver; tell us that you tried homœopathic practice years ago, when first it lifted its head, and that you rejected it *because you saw it fail invariably*. If Hahnemann be no more than an ignorant pretender, whose uncompounded medicines in infinitesimal doses never worked a cure, come forward and put him down with experiments; arraign him for the misery he must have caused, by deluding so many of his professional brethren into a belief in his system, and bewitching so many thousand wretched patients into an opinion that they were cured by these infinitesimal doses. Bring him to dates and facts, it is his own mode of arguing, and he cannot complain; tell him that sulphur(*i*) 30 never did cure an ulcer; that arnica montana(*k*) 18 did not abate fever, and keep down swelling in the case of a

fractured thigh ; that you tried them often, and they failed invariably ;—tell him that the “ Experiences (*l*) officielles faites en Autriche, en Russie, en Bavière, etc. sur l’efficacité de la méthode homœopathique,” were in reality never made ; that the tables appended to those reports are fallacious and false ; and that the “ Tableau (*m*) comparatif des cas de choléra traités par 14 médecins homœopathes à Prague, en Moravie, en Hongrie, et à Vienne, avec l’indication des remèdes employés par ces médecins,” is neither more nor less than a forgery. And then, gentlemen, when by your ably conducted experiments, you shall have silenced these propagators of nonsense, and driven from its last resting place a system, which, if false, is only not ridiculous, because it must be lamentably fatal to trifle thus with the lives of human beings ; then, gentlemen, we will once more submit ourselves to your directions with confidence ; we will bare our arms to the lancet, and our breasts to the blister, and swallow, ‘nothing doubting,’ all the mixed artillery of the druggist’s shop, which your prescriptions may order to be combined in one dose ; grateful to you for having taught us to avoid an abyss into which the rest of the world was falling, and proud that in an epi-

demical insanity the medical practitioners of our own country alone remained uninfected.

If homœopathy be a false system, it must be a very dangerous system; since it wastes much precious time: and if it be false, that most kind and liberal of governments, the Austrian, did well in prohibiting it, as we are assured they have lately done. It is no ingenious paradox, as the writer (*n*) in the Penny Magazine has informed us it is. It is no harmless and "curious theory," which may serve to amuse an idle hour. We beg his pardon. It is killing or curing its thousands; it is life or death to us: and to you we appeal to tell us whether to adopt it or reject it: to adopt it as the greatest blessing that a merciful God ever sent to a suffering world; or to reject it as the most wicked and wanton piece of mischief that was ever dragged forth from the penetralia of a German brain to desolate and destroy, to "break reeds already bruised, and quench flax already smoking."

But, gentlemen, it is right that we should be candid with you. You cannot put down this heresy by calling it names, neither can you so convince us. It will not do to assert its founder to be a quack, and his followers to be idiots. Whatever may be the case in enlightened Austria,

here it will surely have a fair trial at last. Here clamour can never send the police to pounce on the formidable decillionths, and shut up homœopathic pharmacy in the cage. It is unquestionably an admirable mode of carrying on an argument, to regard an opponent as synonymous with a malefactor, and drag him off to the stocks when we cannot convince him. (o) It is a pity perhaps, but the fact is nevertheless so, that in England the police have other work on their hands. We look to you, therefore, as I said, to determine the question for us. We hear the tales of those who have visited Rau or Peschier. We see those who come from Dunsford or from Quin. Do they speak the truth, or not, for this is all that we have to do with. It signifies little to assure us, either that it is no more than a specious novelty, or that it is as old as Hippocrates; that its doses are so reduced as to have no effect, or so potent as to poison patients. Those who have tried it assure us that the old system (the system which you practise, gentlemen) is mistaken in theory, and comparatively ineffectual in practice; and that by Hahnemann's system they have been cured in a manner equally rapid, safe, easy, and surprising. (p) And if you say, as was said of old, "give God the praise, we know this man to be a sinner,"

you will only get for answer something like the answer then given, "Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not ; one thing I know, that whereas I was blind now I see." There are, certainly, enormous interests at stake on the result of your experiments ; for if true, it is almost appalling to reflect on the consequences—to recollect the shock which will be given to the practice and livelihood of the physician, the surgeon, the apothecary, the druggist, in short to the whole armament and array of polypharmacy. But if true, the interests of the whole world imperiously demand that it be instantaneously adopted : and honourable men like you will not hesitate to come forward and acknowledge how little you have hitherto known, how fatal has been your error, and how mischievous your practice.

Gentlemen, I trust that the importance of the subject will by you be deemed sufficient excuse for the liberty I have taken in addressing you. With extreme impatience we await your decision. Should you, not by jokes or jests, or vollies of small wit, still less by turning against it the heavy artillery of your displeasure, and assailing it with "sound and fury signifying nothing," but by patient observation, and careful experiments made fairly and repeated often, convince yourselves that

its advocates have endeavoured to bolster up by falsehoods a theory remarkable for nothing more than the startling nature of its assertions, by publishing those experiments you will convince us and vindicate yourselves. The gratitude of a nation delivered from such a pest by your exertions will idolize the very names of its preservers.

But if, failing to falsify, you yet refuse to admit it; if, contenting yourselves with “hard words, jealousies, and fears,” you will neither adopt, nor examine, nor even enquire: if it *be* truth, and knowing it to be truth you still pertinaciously adhere to your bleeding, your blistering, your purges, your emetics, your incisions and excisions, your cautery and embrocations, and “quidquid habent telorum armamentaria cœli,”—Mark me, gentlemen, you must not be surprised if a new race of medical practitioners, neither too prejudiced to discriminate nor too old to learn, usurp that place in public estimation which you at present hold so worthily, and you be left to try upon yourselves as patients the effects of those prescriptions which as physicians you have prescribed.

There is one way, and but one way to oppose this novelty with effect. It is lawful to pillage an enemy's camp; and we will extract, for our own guidance, the advice which a late writer on

homœopathy has administered to some of its injudicious defenders. “ Une demidouzaine d’observations, suffisent-elles pour établir un fait de cette importance ? Ce n’est pas ainsi que notre vénérable maître à tous Hahnemann a donné l’exemple d’une observation patiente, prolongée, judicieuse. Observez en silence. Experimentez par devers vous, comme vous l’entendez : mais, pas de publications prématurées de faits incomplets ! Une telle marche nuit à la science, bien loin de lui profiter.” *

I have the honour to remain,

With great respect,

Gentlemen,

Your very obedient humble Servant,

THOMAS R. EVEREST.

* Bibliothèque Homœopathique, No. 6, p. 481.

NOTES.

(a) P. 7. Vid. Bibliothèque Homœopathique, No. 1.

(b) P. 7. Vid. Les Ecoles en Medecine et l'Homœopathie, par le Dr. Dufresne, Bib. Hom. No. 4.

(c) P. 10. At Georgenthal, and in 1794 at Brunswick and Kœnigslutter.

(d) P. 11. In 1810 was first published the first edition of his Organon, in which his whole system is developed. Long before that time, however, he had in various publications hinted at the great principle of it.

(e) P. 12. See an article in the Bib. Hom. No. 4., de la méthode à suivre pour tracer le Tableau des Maladies, extracted from a work of Dr. Hering.

(f) P. 12. I cannot persuade myself to omit the following account of his Theory of Chronic Complaints, long as it is.

Cependant jusque vers l'année 1816, la méthode homœopathique n'avait obtenu de succès bien décidés que dans son application aux maladies aiguës. La classe si nombreuse, et si rebelle aux traitemens ordinaires, des affections chroniques, avait présenté à l'homœopathie même des difficultés inattendues. Convaincu, par sa longue expérience, de la généralité du principe de sa doctrine, Hahnemann vit dans ces obstacles même l'indice d'un problème non résolu encore sur

la nature des maladies chroniques. Il appliqua à la recherche de ce problème tout son talent d'observation, et son infatigable ardeur de travail : et c'est ainsi qu'il fut amené, après plusieurs années à établir le principe de la nature miasmatique des affections chroniques, et à découvrir les substances propres à les combattre efficacement.

L'expérience lui avait démontré qu'en traitant les maladies chroniques avec les medicamens homœopathiques ordinaires on obtenait presque toujours au début une amélioration notable, que quelquefois même on voyait disparaître comme par enchantement, les symptômes, les plus graves, mais que ces symptômes, accompagnés souvent d'accidens nouveaux, se reproduisaient après un temps plus ou moins long, et par l'effet des moindres causes occasionelles. Si alors on leur opposait derechef les mêmes substances déjà employées, celles-ci, n'exerçaient plus qu'une action faible et incomplète et finissaient même par n'avoir plus aucun effet quelconque. La ténacité de ces affections, et leur renaissance constante sous des formes diversifiées et de plus en plus graves, firent soupçonner à Hahnemann que, dans les maladies chroniques, en général, le médecin avait à faire à quelque principe morbide, profondément inhérent à tout l'organisme, et dont les accidens particuliers, pour chaque moment donné, ne constituaient en quelque sorte que des embranchemens. Dans cette supposition il devenait impossible, en effet, d'obtenir une guérison radicale en traitant chaque cas spécial comme une maladie complète en elle-même ; en procédant ainsi, on n'agissait que palliativement, sans jamais atteindre le principe du mal. Le seul moyen d'arriver à la guérison radicale, c'était donc de connaître d'abord l'ensemble des symptômes et des accidens propres à l'affection primitive, et ensuite de découvrir quelques substances dont les effets pathogénétiques offriraient un ensemble analogue. L'action homœopathique de ces substances attaquerait alors le mal dans son centre comme dans ses embranchemens, dans son essence comme dans ses phénomènes spéciaux. Voilà comment Hahnemann se posa le problème à résoudre.

Sans entrer ici dans des détails qui trouveront leur place ailleurs avec tous les développemens nécessaires, nous nous bornerons à dire que Hahnemann, par des rapprochemens laborieux et pleins d'intérêt a cherché à établir que ce principe générateur de la plupart des maladies chroniques, est le *Virus Psorique*, dont la *gale* est la plus simple expression. CETTE DOCTRINE DE LA PSORA FONDÉE EN GRANDE PARTIE SUR DES ANALOGIES, EST NECESSAIREMENT HYPOTHETIQUE PAR SA NATURE MEME, ET IL FAUDRA PEUT-ETRE UN SIECLE D'OBSERVATIONS SUIVIES POUR L'ELEVER AU RANG DE FAIT INCONTESTABLE. Mais ce qui n'est point hypothétique, ce qui est actuellement démontré par des milliers de faits déjà recueillis, c'est la puissante efficacité des remèdes découverte par Hahnemann contre les affections chroniques qu'il fait dériver de la *psora*, et qu'il a distingués du nom de remèdes *antipsoriques*. C'est là, il faut le reconnaître, sa découverte la plus belle, et la plus étonnante, d'autant plus qu'il a su trouver ces substances, d'ont l'action est à la fois si énergique et si prolongée dans des corps regardés jusqu'à ce jour comme complètement inertes, médicalement parlant, la silice, la chaux, le charbon, la sépia, la poudre de lycopode, &c. &c. : substances chez lesquelles la préparation homœopathique développe des forces ignorées jusqu'à présent.

CE NE FUT QU'APRES DOUZE ANNEES D'EXPERIENCES ET D'OBSERVATIONS QUE HAHNEMANN PUBLIA LES FRUITS DE SES NOUVELLES RECHERCHES, dans son ouvrage sur les maladies chroniques (*Die Chronischen Krankheiten*, &c.) imprimé en 1828.—Vid. Bib. Hom. No. 1.

The passages printed in capital letters would seem to show that there is a patient caution, and unwillingness in both the master and his disciples to be led by any other guides than time and experience, which deserve notice from his opponents, if they do not carry conviction.

(g) P. 16. Vide Note (f). Vid. also *Reine Arzneimit-*

tellehre, vol. iv. ; and Archiv. fur homœop. Heilkunst, vol. i. for Platina.

(h) P. 16. For the satisfaction of those who may not have an opportunity of seeing foreign medical journals, we will extract a few of the cases which it would be very desirable to see contradicted if they are false ; previously, however, begging the reader's attention to the following extract from a writer on homœopathy, which carries with it, at any rate, an appearance of fairness.

La grande question de la validité des doctrines de l'homœopathie ne peut se décider, en dernier resort, que par les faits. C'est là, sans doute, le principal élément de conviction que réclameront tous les hommes accoutumés à observer. Or, les faits existent, ils existent déjà par milliers, mais tous ne sont pas propres à servir de preuves et à entraîner la conviction. Les exemples de guérisons rapportées par les médecins homœopathistes, offriront toujours quelque prise à un scepticisme peu bienveillant, et si l'on n'accuse pas la loyauté des observateurs, inculpation dont il rejaillit toujours quelque chose sur ceux même qui se la permettent, on mettra du moins en doute la rectitude de leur jugement, et leur entière indépendance de toute illusion d'amour-propre. D'un autre côté, les faits médicaux sont si complexes de leur nature, il est si difficile d'en distinguer les élémens sous le rapport de la liaison des causes et des effets, le '*post hoc propter hoc*' est une conclusion qui induit si fréquemment en erreur, qu'il est bien permis, à coup sûr, de se tenir en garde contre les observations isolées, quelque évidentes qu'elles paraissent. Ce n'est que lorsqu'ils font nombre, que les faits médicaux acquièrent une valeur réelle. Quand on pourra venir les chiffres à la main, prouver que l'homœopathie dans telle ou telle affection morbide guérit une plus forte proportion de malades que l'allopathie, la question sera tranchée. Ce moment n'est peut-être pas loin. —Bib. Hom. No. 3.

Let us hear first of all Dr. Gueyrard of Lyons (at present of Paris).

“Voilà bien du temps perdu en vaines discussions. Des faits, des faits avant tout. Depuis mon retour de voyage, c’est à dire, depuis cinq mois, plus de 800 malades, souvent dans un état désespéré, ont réclamé de moi les secours de la médecine nouvelle. Les observations sont recueillies sans exception, et une partie est destinée à la publicité. Cinq de ces malades sont morts ; un hydrocéphale chronique, deux phtysies au 3^e degré, deux cancers ulcérés ; et ce n’est pas chez ces derniers que j’ai pu le moins constater les prodigieux effets des atomes de Hahnemann.”

Bib. Hom. No. 3.

Three reports have been published, (entitled *Expériences Officielles faites en Autriche, en Russie, en Bavière, &c. sur l’efficacité de la Méthode Homœopathique*,) containing the result of applications of Homœopathy in the public hospitals, made by order of various governments.

The first contains experiments made at Vienna, by Doctor Marenzeller, in 1828. Every precaution seems to have been taken against collusion ; and a room having been selected for the purpose, the patients were sent there promiscuously as they arrived at the infirmary of Vienna. Sixty days were allowed for the experiments, afterwards reduced to forty. The tables contained in this report are far too long to be extracted here. The result is thus given,—43 patients were treated. Cured 32 ; died, 1 ; transferred to the hospital of the city 5, and 5 ‘sont restés en voie d’amélioration à la cessation des épreuves.’

The second Report is that of Dr. Herman, at the military hospital at Tulzyn, in Podolia, by order of the Emperor

Nicholas. The cases were chiefly intermittent fever. The following table gives the result of three months.

TABLEAU GENERAL PENDANT LES TROIS MOIS.

Reçus.	Guéris.	Convalescens.	Restés Malades.	Morts.
164	122	18	18	6

The third report is that of Dr. Atomyr, in the public hospital of Munich, during five months. No tables are given, but many cases are related which are assuredly very deserving of attention. Two or three, selected merely for their brevity, will be sufficient.

1. "*Trois ascites*" très-développés chez des femmes âgées. La première avait été traitée long-temps allopathiquement sans le moindre succès. Une petite dose de "*china*" amena, au bout de douze heures, un flux abondant d'urines, et en moins d'une semaine l'enflure avait disparu avec l'embarras de la respiration et une toux très-fatigante. Le second cas fut guéri presque aussi rapidement, par le "*china*" également. Mais, dans le troisième, on fut obligé d'avoir recours en outre à plusieurs autres substances.

2. "*Deux inflammations de poitrine*," une "*pneumonie*" et une "*pleurésie*." L'un des cas, chez une femme de trente ans, fut guéri en deux jours par "*l'aconit*" et la "*bryone*." Dans l'autre, qui eut lieu chez un homme d'environ trente ans, la première dose de "*bryone*" amena une violente exacerbation, qui disparut rapidement après une seconde dose de la même substance.

3. "*Trois sciaticques*." La première, chez un homme de trente ans, résista d'abord à la "*noix vomique*" et à la "*bryone*," et céda à une seule dose de "*coloquinte*." La seconde, chez une femme d'environ quarante ans, était très-

violente; ici on donna sur-le-champ la “*coloquinte*,” et en quelques jours les douleurs avaient disparu. Le troisième cas, presque aussi violent, avec impossibilité de marcher du pied qui répondait au côté malade, fut guéri également par la “*coloquinte*” dans l'espace de cinq jours.

4. Une “*ophthalmie violente*,” chez un homme de trente ans, guérie par une seule dose de “*belladone*.”

5. “*Apoplexia ex vitio cordis*,” c'est ainsi que fut désignée, à la clinique médicale, l'affection d'une jeune fille de vingt-deux ans, qui offrait les symptômes suivans: immobilité et roideur, insensibilité complète, visage gonflé et d'un rouge bleuâtre, pulsations violentes du cœur, et absence presque complète des battemens artériels, respiration stertoreuse, etc. Le docteur Ringseis essaya, avant tout, la saignée, l'acide hydrocyanique en dose allopathique, etc.; et comme rien ne réussissait, il finit par donner la “*pulsatille*” homœopathiquement. En quelques jours, et sans l'aide d'aucun autre agent médicinal, la malade se rétablit parfaitement.

The following case deserves notice:

Hydrothorax Chronique, Œdème Général.

Après plusieurs dérangemens de la santé, surtout depuis l'âge critique, marqués le plus souvent par des accès de dyspnée, des anxiétés précordiales, avec disposition remarquable à frissonner, une petite toux sèche ou d'apparence catarrhale, du malaise après le repas, etc. Mme. Pel. . . . demeurant à Lyon, allée des Brotteaux, agée de 48 ans, d'un tempérament lymphatique bilieux, a successivement éprouvé depuis dix mois, jusqu'aux derniers jours de mai, qu'elle a réclamé mes soins, les symptômes suivans:

La malade se plaint d'un engourdissement désagréable au bras droit, la figure, qui est infiltrée, offre une pâleur terreuse qui contraste avec les vergetures sanguines des pommettes et une couleur d'un rouge violet aux livres; la langue est sèche

et rouge, et recouverte d'un côté d'une couche épaisse et muqueuse : les urines sont rares, et la malade expectore une grande quantité de mucosités glaireuses mêlées de stries sanguines ; le pouls est irrégulier et varie d'un instant à l'autre, elle se plaint d'un tiraillement douloureux dans le dos. Du reste l'empâtement œdémateux de la base de la poitrine et une infiltration considérable de toutes les autres parties du corps, ne me laissant plus de doute sur le caractère et la gravité de la maladie, je n'ai consenti à employer l'homœopathie que pressé par les sollicitations du mari et de toute la famille.

Le 2 Juin, je donne 2 glob. Arsen. x.

Le 3 et le 4, il y a quelques vomissemens, des syncopes fréquentes et une oppression si effrayante, que la malade ne peut plus rester couchée, et qu'elle est obligée de se tenir penchée en avant.

Le 5, la nuit est moins agitée que les précédentes, les urines coulent abondamment (elle en rend à peu près deux litres dans l'espace de six heures).

Du 5 au 14, l'état de la malade continue à devenir sensiblement meilleur.

Le 16, je répète l'arsenic.

Légère recrudescence des symptômes pendant la nuit ; la toux et la dyspnée augmentent.

Le 17, les urines coulent abondamment, et il s'établit une sueur générale et très-forte. Le 18, le 19, et le 20, la malade est transportée de joie de dormir la nuit et de passer le jour sans souffrir.

Le 27, je donne "*hellebore*" VI.

Le 28, la malade est beaucoup plus fatiguée, les urines sont moins abondantes, il y a de l'oppression.

Le 2 Juillet, "*digitale*" IV, répétée le huitième jour de la première administration. Depuis ce moment la malade est entrée en convalescence sans qu'il existe rien aujourd'hui qui puisse faire craindre une récurrence. Le sommeil est bon, l'appétit se développe chaque jour davantage, les forces ne languissent plus, la peau reprend sa couleur et son élasticité naturelle, et Madame Pel. . . ., qui avait été abandonnée par

tous les médecins, doit à l'immortel auteur de la nouvelle thérapeutique médicale, au célèbre "*Hahnemann*," une existence sur laquelle personne n'était plus en droit de compter.

Alphonse Lorin, docteur-médecin.

The annexed cases also, from an article by Dr. Gueyrard, entitled "Thérapeutique," are worthy of attention.

Fièvre inflammatoire avérée par aconite.

M. Guindrand, paysagiste d'une verve remarquable et d'une imagination vigoureuse, 34 ans, fort, gros, coloré, athlétique, sujet aux angines et aux congestions vers la tête, accidens que j'avais toujours combattus par de larges dégorgemens sanguins, me fait appeler vers le soir du 6 Avril, 1832, et réclame avec instances une saignée sans laquelle, me dit-il, il court le risque d'étouffer pendant la nuit. Son état était le suivant ; face tuméfiée, rouge, sourcils contractés, yeux brillans, injectés, céphalalgie intense, gonflement du col, pulsation des carotides ; douleur lancinante dans la gorge, augmentant quand il avale sa salive, respiration pénible, battemens du cœur larges, vifs ; pouls plein, dur, vibrant, fréquent ; peau chaude, prostration musculaire ; moral abattu, effrayé ; du reste, rien de plus caractérisé. Je lui administrai immédiatement 2 globules d'aconit, 30^e dilution et lui ordonnai l'eau sucrée pour unique boisson. Le lendemain de très-bonne heure, je me rendis chez lui, incertain du résultat de ma médication, et muni, à tout évènement, d'une lancette. Je trouvai mon malade habillé et se disposant à déjeuner avec appétit avant de partir pour la campagne. Sa figure était pâle, exprimant un calme profond ; son pouls large, lent et souple. Il assura avoir goûté un sommeil paisible, mais précédé d'une demi-heure de grande agitation, pendant laquelle il lui avait semblé, parmi d'autres sensations, qu'une main de fer (ce fut son expression), fouillait les anfractuosités de sa cervelle.

Fièvre gastrique.

M. V. de St. D. r. Sala, à Lyon, 16 ans, blond, mince, sujet aux migraines, malade depuis 2 jours.

25 Mars, 1832. Douleur frontale gravative; frissons fugaces; figure triste; peau chaude et sèche; pouls vif, serré, fréquent; langue couverte d'une couche épaisse de saburres blanchâtres; sensation de barre transversale avec tension épigastrique, articulations douloureuses; anorexie; soif; constipation. Ce même jour, aconit. 30°.

26 Mars. Reste de douleur sus-orbitaire du côté droit mêmes symptômes du reste. Aconit. 30°.

27. — Nul changement, antimon. crud. 12°.

Ce jour-là, légère aggravation, plus prononcée vers 5 heures. A 6 heures, tout a disparu, enduit lingual et céphalalgie.

28. — Etat normal.

Fièvre bilieuse.

Le nommé * * domestique de M.P., quai Saint Clair à Lyon, après quelque jours d'anorexie et de malaises précurseurs, est atteint subitement, le 14 Juin, 1832, de vomissemens bilieux, très-abondans, avec faiblesse extrême, abattement, face injectée, conjonctive et teint jaunâtres, langue rouge aux bords, saburrale et jaune au centre; épigastralgie n'augmentant point par la pression; soif ardente; pouls fréquent, vif et dur, 120 pulsat. Le Docteur Lorrin, appelé concurremment avec moi, prescrivit ce jour-là plusieurs doses successives d'ipécac. 6. Suspension des vomissemens, mais persistance des autres symptômes. Nux. 30° le soir.

15 au matin.—Amélioration, mais légère. Nux. 30° répétée.

16.—Mieux général, trois bouillons, eau sucrée.

17.—Guérison confirmée.

Fièvre catarrhæle.

M. V. A., rue des Deux Angles, à Lyon, 36 ans, blond,

sanguin, alité depuis deux jours. Face animée; yeux injectés langue rouge, saburrale; constriction du pharynx, douleur en avalant; constipation; peau chaude, moite; toux vive, fréquente, plus forte le matin, et seulement alors suivie d'expectoration; pouls large, plein, 120 pulsations. Ce jour-là, 20 Mars, 1832, *aconit* 2 fois, ralentit le pouls. Le 21, peu de changement, *nux* 30^{oo}; mieux ce jour même. Le 22, le malade figure à table et sort.

(i) P. 17.

Trois cas d'ulcères psoriques. Chez deux malades de trente à quarante ans, ces ulcères occupaient le pied et la jambe. Tous deux furent guéris par une petite dose de *sulphur*. Le troisième cas, chez un homme de vingt-cinq ans, s'était développé à la suite d'une teigne répercutée, et s'annonçait comme bien plus grave que les premiers. Les ulcères couvraient presque tout le corps. Tous disparurent après l'administration de *spirit. vin. sulphur.* 30.

Again,

Environ *quarante gales simples*, chez des sujets tous au-dessous de trente ans. Les dit premiers galeux furent guéris du dixième au quatorzième jour, par une seule dose de *soufre* 30. Les autres cas exigèrent de trois à quatre semaines.—
Extracted from the Expériences Officielles of Dr. Atomyr.

(k) P. 17. See the very curious experiments of Dr. Dufresne with *Arnica Montana*, in cases of fracture. A short one may be extracted.

“ Un homme âgé se cassa une cuisse; j'en fis la réduction et appliquai un appareil; puis je lui fis prendre *arnica* 6 et huit jours après encore *arnica* 6. Il n'y eut ni fièvre, ni douleur, ni symptôme anormal.

(l) P. 18. See (h) P. 23.

(m) P. 18. Tableau Comparatif des Cas de Choléra traités par 14 Medecins Homœopathes à Prague, en Moravie, en Hongrie, et à Vienne.

Noms de Medecins et Indication de Lieux.	Nombre des Malades traités.	Guéris.	Morts.
Dr. Schaller, à Prague.....	113	113	—
Dr. Lievy, à Prague.....	80	72	8
Dr. Gerstel, en Moravie et à Prague	330	284	36
Dr. Baer, à Prague	80	80	—
Dr. Bakody, à Raab.....	154	148	6
Dr. Lens, près de Pesth	40	32	8
Dr. Mayer, à Pest.....	65	65	—
Dr. Pater Veith, à Vienne	80	78	2
Prof. Dr. Veeth, à Vienne	50	49	1
Dr. De Lichtenfells, à Vienne....	46	43	3
Dr. Marenzeller, à Vienne	30	27	3
Dr. Vrecha, en Moravie et à Vienne	104	88	16
Dr. Schultz, à Vienne	17	17	—
Dr. Lederer, à Vienne	80	78	2
Total.....	1269	1174	85

The following Table may not be deemed out of place here, as including in one view all that need be cited to prove the efficacy of Homœopathy in the Cholera.

Indication des Pays.	Nombre des Malades traités.	Guéris.	Morts.
En Russie, (Documens de l'Amiral Mordvinof, Observations des Docteurs Seider & Peterson) ..	1557	1394	163
En Autriche (Documens du Dr. Roth, Observations des Docteurs Schreter, Hanusch, & Quin)....	1406	1314	95
A Berlin, Observation des Docteurs Stüller & Haynel	32	26	6
A Paris, Observations du Docteur Quin	19	19	—
Total.....	3014	2753	264

(n) P. 19. The notice of Homœopathy in a late number of the Penny Magazine, would be amusing from any other quarter---*there* we certainly regret to find it. To throw a shade of ridicule over the whole question; to volunteer to act the part of midwife, and strangle the babe at its birth; to undertake to pilot into harbour a vessel that has long borne storm and sea, and run her on the rocks just as she is reaching her anchorage, this is worthy of some journals that I could name, but not of a journal professing to hold out the hand of fellowship to all who are desirous of spreading real knowledge. The writer of the article in that work has introduced the subject as if it were a mere pleasantry. “A *singular* theory,” “a paradoxical system,” “a curious and ingenious theory,” he calls it, as if he were announcing some new plan for squaring the circle, or reaching the moon by steam. Did that writer imagine he had to do with some dandy young doctor who had hit on the idea last month, as he was humming a tune in his cab? Was he aware that he was talking of the result of long, incessant, and unbroken application? Did he know that one of the mightiest of earth’s children, one of the most sagacious and patient observers and closest reasoners of this or any age, had bowed his gigantic faculties in the school of experiment for almost HALF A CENTURY? If he did know this, was it decent to introduce the system founded on *such* experiments *by such a man*, as he would have treated the idle hypothesis of a truant boy? Passing over the assertion that the Organon der Heilkunst was first printed at Dresden in 1824, which Organon the writer must or should have known was printed in 1810---passing over the unworthy attempt to give to Stahl the credit of the discovery---we come to the writer’s account of the small doses of homœopathy. Now did he know, or did he not know, that these small doses are required in Hahnemann’s system, to have undergone a previous trituration of more than twenty-four hours, and that to this trituration their action is in a great measure supposed to be due? Did he know that many of the medicaments of homœopathy are substances which are completely inert until

triturerated for some time? If he knew this, why did he not state it? If he did not know it, why did he write the article?

“ If,” says he again, “ *we were asked our opinion* as to the truth of this curious and ingenious theory, we should say that we have no doubt people get well after these infinitely small doses, though we very much doubt if they get well by means of them; and *we think* the great value of homœopathy to consist in its demonstrating that diseases may be cured by regimen and repose, which not merely the opinion of the vulgar, but the common run of practitioners would condemn to long courses of medicine.” Luckily for itself, homœopathy does not ask any one’s *opinions*; it appeals to facts alone, and until those facts are disputed, no magisterial “ *we think*” can quell it. It cannot be “ snuffed out by an article.” The writer will I am sure pardon me for asking him, if he ever tried homœopathy, if he ever saw it tried on others, if he ever read the truly extraordinary cases which are contained in foreign works---in a word, if he knows any more of the system than he has learnt from the Organon? He talks of the value of regimen and repose; he should know that in 99 out of every 100 cases related (such as syphilis, &c.) they could not possibly have had any thing to do with the cure.

Let us hope that the conductors of the Penny Magazine, at least, will never be found among those who would endeavour to employ ridicule as an argument against facts. From them we look for better things. We did expect, and we hope still to find them ranged on the side of those who would neither accept without strong reason, nor reject without thorough inquiry. For many, too many, years Homœopathy has borne every species of obloquy. It is time that such should have an end. The conductors of the Penny Magazine have great power lodged in their hands,—let them use it, (and I am sure that they will use it), not to smother enquiry with ridicule, but to force examination. A trial is all that Homœopathy asks. Let those who are united to spread knowledge compel the medical men to make a fair trial of it; if then it fails, let it be spurned from the earth without delay.

(o) P. 20. Poor Dr. Bakody has given us a very grievous account of the arguments one Dr. Karpf employed against Homœopathy at Raab in Hungary. It is too long to extract. ‘Il finit,’ says the plaintive Homœopathiste, “par proposer *tout simplement* de mettre en prison le Docteur Bakody jusqu’à la fin de l’épidémie !”

Certainly, if Homœopathy be not truth it must possess some of its attributes, or the Austrian Government would never have crushed it, nor a Doctor propose to clap his brother Doctor in irons for believing in it.

(p) P. 20. Those who wish to see more examples of homœopathic treatment may consult the *Bibliothèque Homœopathique* published at Geneva, Bigel’s *Examen de la Méthode curative nommée Homœopathie*, published at Warsaw; Gueyrard’s *Doctrine Médicale Homœopathique*, Paris 1834, in which is inserted a list of the principal works on the subject.

I regret exceedingly having been compelled to cite so many cases in a foreign language; unfortunately I had no alternative. The following, however, I am enabled to give:—

An English lady of rank had travelled through Europe in order to obtain relief for her child who was afflicted with an obstinate and frightful disease of the skin. After fruitlessly consulting the most eminent Allopathic practitioners, she resolved to have recourse to Homœopathy. The patient was perfectly cured in a month by a few doses of graphite.

A lady, aged 45, much tormented with flatulency, which occasionally was so violent as to produce alarming spasmodic attacks; having tried in vain antacid and carminative remedies, which procured only temporary relief, was permanently cured by two doses of *pulsatilla*, administered on Hahnemann’s system.

A lady, aged 58, who for more than thirty years had suffered from a painful affection of the stomach, for which the usual remedies had been frequently tried in vain, was cured by the administration of a minute dose of nitric acid,

which produces, when taken by a person in health, effects precisely similar to the symptoms she suffered from.

A clergyman, aged 25, was affected with Cynanche. On examining the throat on the third day from the commencement of the disease the tonsils were found intensely red, painful, and very much swollen. A homœopathic dose of belladonna was administered at bed-time. He awoke at four in the morning without feeling the least uneasiness in the throat, the redness had disappeared and the swelling completely subsided. Although he was obliged to get up at that early hour and travel twelve miles in a snow storm to a village where he preached twice on that day, the inflammation did not return.